

REMARKS

The examiner objected to the specification for informalities.

The examiner objected to the drawings for containing text that exceeds the size of the flowchart box.

The application includes claims 13-21 and 38-44 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner rejected claims 13-21 and 38-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Rate Control for Robust Video Transmission Over Burst-Error Wireless Channels (Hsu).

The applicants amend claims 13, 15-18, 20-21, 38-40, 42, and 44, add claims 50-57, and cancel claims 19 and 41 without prejudice. The applicants had previously canceled claims 1-12, 22-37, and 45-49.

The application remains with claims 13-18, 20-40, 42-44, and 50-57 after entering this amendment.

The applicants do not add new matter and request reconsideration.

Drawing Objections

The applicants replace the drawing figures 1-11 with replacement formal drawing figures 1-11. The formal drawings obviate the examiner's drawing objections.

Specification Objections

The applicants amend the specification and drawings to correct the labeling of the inverse discrete cosine transform module 225 and the discrete cosine transform module 240 in Figure 2. The inverse discrete cosine transform module and discrete cosine transform module are also relabeled in Figure 6.

The applicants amend the specification paragraphs [0011] and [0012] to be consistent with the drawing amendments.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

The examiner rejected claims 13-21 and 38-44 under § 103 as obvious over AAPA in view of Hsu. The applicants respectfully disagree particularly as they amend the claims.

Claim 13 recites *providing the at least one video frame to a plurality of encoders associated with the plurality of output bitstreams, each of the plurality of encoders having a quantization scale factor, adjusting the quantization scale factor for each of the plurality of encoders to change the bit rate of each of the plurality of output bitstreams and incorporating the plurality of output bitstreams into a video block*. Claim 38 includes similar language.

In rejecting the original claim 18 that recited *formatting the plurality of output bitstreams into a video block*, the examiner indicated that “the applicant’s admitted prior art and Hsu both disclose compliance with MPEG and/or H.263 standards...which inherently include video segment processing units such as groups of pictures, frames, slices, macroblocks, blocks. The standards further include block headers that contain a variety of information including segment offset, schedule information, and quantization parameters, which are compression statistics.”¹

Claim 13, however, now recites *incorporating the plurality of bitstreams into a video block*. Claim 38 recites *a formatter module to incorporate the plurality of output bitstreams into a video block*. None of the standards disclose providing the at least one video frame to a plurality of encoders, each encoder being associated with a quantization scale factor, adjusting the quantization scale factor to change the bit rate of each of the plurality of output bitstreams, and then incorporating the plurality of output bitstreams into a video block. Thus, even if the standards mentioned by the examiner disclose block headers, these standards must disclose incorporating the plurality of output bitstreams into a video block, if the standards are to disclose the claims. Note that in claims 13 and 38, each of the plurality of output bitstreams has particular characteristics, namely, a corresponding bit rate that changes, in turn, by a corresponding quantization scale factor of a corresponding encoder. None of the AAPA, Hsu, the standards, or their combination discloses any of these particular characteristics for the output bitstreams much less the incorporation of the plurality of output bitstreams into a video block. Hsu, for its part, discloses parallel buffers, each storing “every GOB [group of bits] quantized with one particular quantizer. Then the data for the block currently being transmitted (*m* in our example) will be drawn from the appropriate buffer.”² That is, the outputs of each of Hsu’s parallel buffers are not incorporated into a video block as required by the claims.

¹ Office action dated 9/25/2007, page 5.

² Hsu, page 760, section III, second full paragraph. *See also* Hsu, figure 3.

Claim 18 adds that the video block includes *a header, an input video segment, and at least one segment corresponding to at least one of the plurality of output bitstreams*. New claims 51-53 add language directed to the functionality of the bit rate switch.

Likewise, claim 42 adds that the video block includes *at least one video segment corresponding to at least one of the plurality of output bitstreams and a video block header*. New claims 55-57 add a switch variously configured.

New claim 50 includes language previously substantially recited in the claim 18.

New claim 54 recites the addition of a frame buffer.

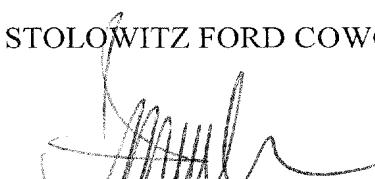
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants request reconsideration and allowance of claims 13-18, 20-40, 42-44, and 50-57. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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